

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
February 26, 2004

President Orville Knott called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District office at 102 North Main Avenue, Thief River Falls, MN.

Present were: Managers Vernon Johnson; LeRoy Ose; Lowell Smeby; Bob Proulx; Allan Carlson, and Orville Knott. Staff present were Myron Jesme, Arlene Novak, and Sandy Radniecki, and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby. Dale M. Nelson was absent.

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Proulx, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda.

Arlene Novak read the minutes of February 10, 2004. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Proulx, that the Board approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report and investment summary. A motion was made by Proulx, seconded by Johnson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated February 25, 2004.

Administrator Jesme explained a land rental situation in Lessor Township, Polk County. Following discussion, a motion was made by Ose, seconded by Carlson, and passed by unanimous vote that Administrator Jesme be authorized to extend an offer for rental of the 12 acres of land in Lessor Township to Phillip Quam, at a price of \$25.00 per acre or a price acceptable to both parties.

Administrator Jesme informed the Board of a Maintenance Schedule outlined in Chapter 4 of the "Operating Plan" for the Moose River Impoundment Project. This schedule calls for regrading of levee to offset settling and inspection of structures, along with other routine maintenance. A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that RLWD staff should conduct a survey on the levee on the Moose River Impoundment and have an engineer inspect the existing structures. Administrator Jesme will report back to the Board with a cost estimate for any repairs due to the inspections.

Kim Durbin from Drees, Risky, & Vallager, LTD, presented the 2003 Annual Audit report. She answered questions from the Board and explained the requirements of the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB34). Upon individual review of the Audit, the Board will further discuss the 2003 Audit at the March 11 meeting.

Wayne Weber, Red Lake County SWCD, and Jim Hest, P.E., NW MN Joint Powers Board, were present to file the Preliminary Engineer's Report for RLWD Ditch #10. Wayne Weber gave a brief history of the project area. Following discussion, a motion was made by Ose, seconded by Carlson, and passed by unanimous vote that, upon the filing of the Preliminary Engineer's Report, the Board of Managers will schedule a public hearing for March 25, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. at the RLWD meeting room.

Jim Hest also informed the Board that he received word from Pennington County SWCD that they have received funding for the second phase of the repair to the riverbank near the TRF Golf Club parking lot. It was noted that the Board agreed to cost share Phase I of the project in

October of 2003, and although he does not have a cost estimate as of yet, he just wanted to update the Board. Mr. Hest will be presenting a cost estimate to the Board at a later meeting.

Administrator Jesme informed the Board that Marshall County had requested cost-share assistance for clearing and snagging in a portion of the Thief River within the State Ditch 83 benefited area. Legal Counsel Delray Sparby indicated to the Board that the RLWD could cost share this project, but could not use State Ditch 83 Ditch funds, as it is not part of the State Ditch 83 System. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Proulx, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve payment of 25 percent of the clearing and snagging, an approximate cost of \$1,500.00.

Administrator Jesme also stated that a portion of State Ditch 83 from Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge north to CSAH #6 needed some clearing and snagging. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Johnson, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD should enter into a contract with the Sentence to Serve for clearing and snagging of this portion of State Ditch 83.

Permits were reviewed by the Board. A motion was made by Carlson, seconded by Johnson, and passed by unanimous vote that the following permits be approved: 04003\* from Eric Samuelson, Andover Township, Polk County; and No. 04004 from Rydell National Wildlife Refuge, Woodside Township, Polk County. \*With conditions stated on permit.

Administrator Jesme presented his update to the Board, as follows:

- He and Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, testified at hearings on February 24 before the House and Senate bonding committees to request funding for the Grand Marais Sub-Watershed Project (Project 60).
- The RLWD received word from the Corps of Engineers that "problematic" funding will postpone progress with most Section 206 and Section 1135 projects for the foreseeable future. This will delay the Ruffy Brook/Clearwater River 1135 PDA and the Grand Marais 206 ERR/EA projects.

Administrator Jesme informed the Board that the Red River Basin requested funding assistance, in the amount of \$200.00, to hire a lobbyist for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. After lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that there would be no interest at this time to follow through with this request.

Corey Hanson, Water Quality Coordinator, handed out copies of the Clearwater Lake Water Quality Study and explained the results of the study to the Board.

Stephanie Klamm, Natural Resource Technician, handed out a summary on the River Watch Forum she attended at the Seven Clans Casino.

Legal Counsel Delray Sparby presented his update to the Board.

Board Manager Johnson brought up the possibility of the RLWD purchasing a weed harvester for the lakes within the RLWD. It was the consensus of the Board that Manager Johnson should obtain information and bring this back to the Board.

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At 11:00 a.m., the following were present from the Middle/Snake/Tamarac Rivers Watershed District: Board Managers Alvin Nybladh, Jim Johnson, Dave Bakke, and Engineer/Administrator Ron Adrian. The Boards discussed projects of interest within the two watershed districts.

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Johnson, that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
LeRoy Ose, Secretary